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March 21, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The Committee on Public Health and Public Safety convened on March 21, 2007, with Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Walter Pero and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Maryann Heuston and Robert Trane as well as Police Chief Robert Bradley, Police Captain Paul Upton, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, Maria Ortiz from SPCD and John Correira.

Mr. Tranfaglia explained the process being followed for the selection of a Police Chief. He told the members that a selection committee has been formed and that specific criteria have been developed for the position. Two public meetings were held to receive input from the community and the consultant interviewed department heads, members of the task force and city official for their input. A survey was distributed to over 40 interest groups in 4 languages, (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole and Portuguese) and the collected data was forwarded to the consultant for input into the recruitment vehicle. The position was advertised nationally and locally on March 5, 2007. A review of submitted resumes is scheduled for April 9th and interviews for semi-finalists will be scheduled for April 16th. The list of the finalists will be brought forth on April 30th with final interviews being conducted during the week of May 7th. The interviews will be open to the public.

Chief Bradley spoke about the organization of the Police Department stating that the current makeup is 1 Chief, 6 captains, 9 lieutenants, 15 sergeants and 88 patrolmen, 3 of whom are presently in the academy. There are 7 positions in the budget which could increase the patrolmen's ranks to 95. Chief Bradley said that he plans on reorganizing the department by appointing 2 deputy chiefs, 2 additional lieutenants and 1 additional sergeant. He hopes to implement the reorganization within the next 12 months and told the members that factors such as collective bargaining, as well as other issues, have delayed the implementation.

Chief Bradley also spoke on the subject of religious organizations running canning drives without permits and said that any organization desiring to solicit funds through a canning drive must register with the Police Department.

On the matter of hate crimes, Chief Bradley provided the committee with some pertinent literature and explained the difference between a hate crime, (motivated by bias or prejudice, sexual orientation, gender, etc.), and a hate incident, (bigotry). Since 2005, Somerville has reported 3 hate crimes.

Lastly, Chief Bradley informed the members that there is a confidential hotline where citizens can report criminal activities without fear of reprisal. The calls do not go through the 911 or police switchboards.

Alderman Sullivan's motion *that the City Solicitor appear before the Committee on Public Health and Public Safety, at its next scheduled meeting, to discuss ways to force CVS to adhere to the lease provision to maintain a safe parking lot in Magoun Sq.* (Item # 182793), was approved.

No papers were acted on.

Alderman William White, Chairman
Committee on Public Health and Public Safety

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Public Health and
Public Safety, March 21, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk